GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:430
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
SALINITY LOWERING FERTILITY OF LAND
DUKHA BHAGAT;MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salinity in the soil has lowered the fertility of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to resolve the problem of salinity in soil alongwith the success achieved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.430 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST APRIL, 2003.

(a): The nature, characteristics and the extent of salinity affects the fertility of the land depending upon the climate, topography, surface hydrology, irrigation and cropping practices, geohydrology, ground water conditions and quality etc.

(b): As per the available estimates, an area of 50.51 lakh ha. in the country is affected by soil salinity. The State-wise distribution of saline soils in the country is annexed.

(c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, especially to develop technologies for crop production under saline conditions as well as reclamation of saline soils in India. The Institute alongwith three Regional Stations at Canning Town, West Bengal, Anand, Gujarat and Lucknow, U.P has developed important location specific research findings for reclamation of saline and alkaline soils as well as crop production technology under saline conditions. The research results are being used in different states for reclamation of saline soils.

A Dutch assisted Project `Haryana Operational Pilot Project for Reclamation of Waterlogged/Saline Soils` was taken up in Haryana (1994-2002). Under the project an area of 2000 ha. has been reclaimed with a total cost of Rs.21.12 crores

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing 11 projects for development of waterlogged and saline waste lands under the Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET) Scheme for treatment of 14,232 ha. in the States of Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Orissa at a total project cost of Rs.35.32 crores.

In addition to this the State Governments, if they so desire, can include activities for reclamation of saline soils under Macro-Management Scheme of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Annexure

(Area in lakh ha.)

S.No.	State	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	5.88
2.	Gujarat	12.16
3.	Haryana	5.00

4. Karnataka 0.99

5. Kerala 0.67
6. Madhya Pradesh 0.67

7 Maharashtra 3.51

8. Orissa 2.54

9. Rajasthan 4.24
10. Tamil Nadu 4.70
11. Uttar Pradesh 1.95
12. West Bengal 8.20

Total 50.51